

REMARKS

Upon entry of the amendment, claims 1-9 will be pending.

New claims 3-9 represent certain features that the Applicants wish to protect. No new matter is added, and the claims find support in the description and drawings.

The term "stem shaped" refers to Fig. 2, and is used to describe the bundled nanowire structure of the nanofiber. Merriam Webster's online dictionary includes a definition for stem of "something held to resemble a plant stem," and Fig. 2 is very evocative of xylem and phloem in a cross section of a plant. Moreover, Applicants submit that the term is sufficiently clear to those skilled in the art, and thus traverse, and request reconsideration of, the 35 USC §112, 2nd para. rejection.

Applicants also traverse, and request reconsideration of, the 35 USC 102(b) rejections of claims 1-2 based on the Westwater reference or the Okajima reference. As an initial matter, these patents relate to the Vapor - Liquid - Solid (VLS) processes described in Applicants background section and produce much different products. Applicants understand the confusion regarding the similarities between Applicants' Fig. 1c and the Westwater reference's Fig. 1c and the Okajima reference's Fig. 1b, but Applicants' specification makes it clear that *their* Fig. 1c relates to nanofibers 4 composed of nanowires. Despite the similarity of the figures, upon reading the disclosures, the cited patents are limited to forming single crystals (Okajima) or silicon nanowires (Westwater) on surfaces, not the claimed "nanofiber comprised of numerous nanowires." There also seems to be no disclosure in the references to meet the "bundled" limitation or the "diameter is smaller" limitation, as claimed in claims 1 and 2, respectively. Thus, not all elements of the claim are met, and no *prima facie* case of anticipation has been made.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to call the undersigned.

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